



2022/2023 Annual Report

North East Neighbourhood House Network



Vision

Strong, capable, resilient neighbourhood houses that are well resourced and responding to the needs of the community.

Purpose

To support, connect and resource neighbourhood houses to achieve their potential.

Values

- Respect
- Trust
- Relationships
- Collaboration
- Quality

Cover image: Sarah Deasey, Panayota Miller and Mary Parfrey on International Women's Day 2023. Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre recognised Sarah, Panayotta and Mary for their enormous contributions to CNLC and the community by naming rooms at CNLC after them. (Image Tony Milne)



NENHN acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.



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Committee of Governance

Chairperson	Jane Tonkin	Fitzroy Learning Network
Deputy Chairperson	Chris Lombardo	Bridge Darebin
Treasurer	Lynne Harris	Mill Park Community House
Secretary	Lucie Holden	Watsonia Neighbourhood House
Ordinary Members	Meredith Budge Vanessa Veldman Stephanie Dallas	Lalor Neighbourhood House Living & Learning Nillumbik Allwood Neighbourhood House



Chairperson's Report

The North East Neighbourhood House Network plays a pivotal role connecting, inspiring and supporting 34 houses that have a geographic reach of around 1000 sq kms.

The Network's investment in our houses is seen in a variety of ways including:-

- Essential direct support provided by manager Julie Johnston whether advice, information or advocacy
- Professional learning for managers, Community Development staff and Board Members through online training modules and face to face events
- Sector strengthening work such as the policy bank and child safe standards.

It is a significant and massive task especially when we consider it is mostly a one person show.

Sally O'Meara completed her part time role with the Network this year. Although we will see her pop up for project specific work. I want to thank her for stepping into the Acting manager role for 6 months and for her commitment to the Network and the sector. I acknowledge her wonderful work on the InfoHub and training modules. We are receiving fabulous feedback about these.

Julie Johnston continues to provide significant stewardship for the Network's 34 Neighbourhood Houses. On behalf of the Committee, I acknowledge the extraordinary work she does. She is a wonderful and generous representative of our sector, and marvellous at encouraging managers to increase their own capacity through her support.



I want to thank the Committee for their commitment to supporting Julie and providing governance for the Network. Chris Lombardo, Lynne Harris, Lucie Holden, Meredith Budge, Stephanie Dallas, and Vanessa Veldman bring an extensive range of experience to the Committee, and their generosity and commitment to the Network is valuable and wonderful.

For new and experienced managers alike, the Network is vital in enabling collective problem solving, and sharing of resources and advice. The Network provides a strong base that enables the Neighbourhood Houses to be adventurous and to overcome challenges.

Feature events such as managers' lunches, training and of course the Annual Dinner which returned with gusto in Oct 2022, provide marvellous social environments where we get to connect and continue the exchanges that Julie provokes through the work of the Network.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Tonkin', written in a cursive style.

Jane Tonkin

Manager's Report

As the memory of lockdowns and the pandemic fades, the rapidly rising inflation and cost of living pressures creates new challenges for neighbourhood houses. Never a dull moment! Our Network continues to support each other and find creative ways through the challenges. The strength of our Network is in our relationships, sharing resources and supporting each other.

It has been great to have Sally O'Meara working on resources for the Network: We have received a lot of positive feedback for the self-paced online learning modules that Sally has created in the InfoHub. These modules are accessible to staff, volunteers and committee members to build their capacity. Modules such as the Introduction to Child Safe Standards have helped members come to terms with the changes in legislation and understand what their organisation needs to do. Sally has also worked with Alphington Community Centre to produce a set of streamlined policies that are now on the NENHN website for all to use and adapt to suit their own organisations.

NENHN covers a large geographic area so members in each local government area meet together to discuss local issues and work together on collaborative projects.

Banyule Network did a combined presentation to councillors and senior council staff in April demonstrating the value to the community and sharing stories about the impact on lives of individuals. It was pleasing when the new Banyule Neighbourhood House Partnership Framework was signed after many months of work.

Whittlesea Network meet together regularly to share resources and support new managers. They are exploring ways to collaboratively promote their work and increase engagement.

It is exciting that the Darebin Network were successful in securing funding for a 2 year project through the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund for a Community Climate Resilience Project which builds on the Neighbourhood House Climate Resilience Plan which they completed last year. Learnings from this project can be rolled out across the Network.

Drawing on the expertise from the Darebin Network, Yarra Network have just completed their Climate Resilience Plan which will be launched soon. They held a very successful combined volunteers thank you lunch in



May to honour and acknowledge the work of their many volunteers. Yarra also completed their Neighbourhood House Partnership Framework with Council which went out to consultation in the community and has now been endorsed at council.

Houses in outer regions of Nillumbik have recently formed the Rural Centre Network which is meeting together to share ideas on how to meet the challenges of operating in a rural environment. They are building the foundations for doing more collaborative work in the coming year.

It's great when members from across our Network come together at NENHN events including:

- Managers' lunches at Allwood Neighbourhood House and Living & Learning Nillumbik in Eltham
- Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training at Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre
- Community Development Workers' Big Day Out at Watsonia Neighbourhood House
- NENHN Annual Dinner at Melbourne Polytechnic St Georges Restaurant

I completed a six month interim manager role at Allwood Neighbourhood House in Hurstbridge to manage the transition from a long term coordinator who retired to the new manager. They say a change is as good as a holiday — but this was certainly not a holiday! It was very satisfying to work with the community and support

a new committee to recruit a manager. It's wonderful to see Allwood Neighbourhood House flourish under the very capable leadership of Stephanie Dallas. I am very grateful that Sally was able to step in to my role at very short notice and do a wonderful job as acting manager while I was working in Hurstbridge.

This year we said goodbye to Allira Hausler (Panton Hill), Izolde Bensch (Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre), Linda Perugini (Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre). We welcomed Vanessa Veldman, Antoinette Ioannou and Tony Milne in their place.

It's been great to have some new members of the committee — Stephanie Dallas and Vanessa Veldman have brought fresh perspectives to the committee

discussions. Along side continuing members Lucie Holden, Chris Lombardo, Lynne Harris and Meredith Budge. Thank you to Jane Tonkin who took on the chairperson role this year — your support, wisdom and encouragement is very much appreciated.

Julie Johnston
Manager



InfoHub Launch

This year, NENHN completed the first phase of our InfoHub project.

Working in partnership with Bridge Darebin, we created a series of free bite-sized online courses.

These courses are great for anyone who is involved in a Neighbourhood House, especially Managers and Committee.

Courses are on-demand and self-paced, and they work on any device. They can be accessed through our website at www.nenetwork.org.au/selfpaced-courses

The following are now available:

- Intro to the North East Neighbourhood House Network
- Intro to Governance
- Compliance and Reporting
- Community Events
- Childsafe Standards: Getting started
- Identifying Child Abuse
- Neighbourhood House Community Gardens
- Mentally Healthy Workplaces
- Code of Conduct
- Working with Local Government

If you have new board members, 'Intro to Governance' is a must. This course is contextualised for neighbourhood houses, and explains how to be an effective board member, and how to fulfil your obligations.

For neighbourhood houses who are working to embed the Child Safe Standards, there are two courses that

may assist. 'Child Safe Standards: Getting started' is for Managers and Boards, and helps to simplify some of the work involved in becoming a Child-safe organisation. 'Identifying Child Abuse' is great if you have volunteers or staff who need some awareness of the signs of child abuse, but don't have a lot of direct involvement with children in their role.

Our 'Code of Conduct' course is for any person involved at your house — students, visitors, staff and volunteers alike. We have looked at numerous codes of conduct around the north-east, and created a simple course to help people understand how to behave according to your expectations when they participate at your neighbourhood house.

Feedback from our members has been very positive, and we're now seeking additional funding to create more courses. Possible topics may include Volunteer Management and Advanced Governance (including a deeper exploration of financial reports and other topics for board members looking to grow their skills).

A big thanks to Ramona and the team at Bridge Darebin for their collaboration. Thanks also to many of our members who provided fantastic images, resources and knowledge. Your contribution has helped to make the courses relevant for Neighbourhood Houses in the north-east.

We are continuing to evaluate and moderate these courses, so we would love to hear your feedback. Please let us know what you think!



Sally O'Meara

Project Manager

Awards

Congratulations to our award winning neighbourhood houses who have been recognised for their outstanding work

Darebin Community Award Community Group of the Year

Darebin City Council

Winner: Span Community House

Span Community House Inc. delivers the 'RRR Hub' project, which focuses on engaging the Darebin community to Repair, Reuse and Recycle more to avoid waste, reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to the local circular economy. In the first 12 months of the program they delivered over 20 workshops / events and improved on-site collection services for various materials. This resulted in over 4,600 people participating and over 11 tonnes of materials being collected. The program continues, and is growing and attracting new community members and volunteers.



Reducing Inequalities Award

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

**Winner: Reservoir Neighbourhood House
— Colour my Neighbourhood**

The goal of this project was to bring art and colour to a public housing estate in East Reservoir through an intentional and integrated community development mural project.

The end result: beautiful buildings, active citizens and a whole lot of joy!

Residents were consulted on the design of each House, and encouraged to suggest colours and motifs that were meaningful to them. A health worker was also present at these meetings, helping to address other health concerns for the residents.



Climate Action Award

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

**Winner: Mernda Community House
— Mernda Repair Cafe**

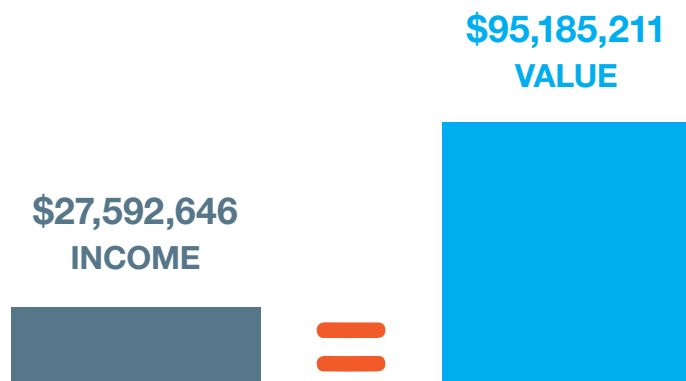
The Mernda Repair Café delivers information and educational workshops, recruits and trains community champions, and creates opportunities for community members to engage and socially connect.

Mernda Community House partnered with Whittlesea City Council and Sustainability Victoria, and have received glowing feedback and consistent attendance from their participants.

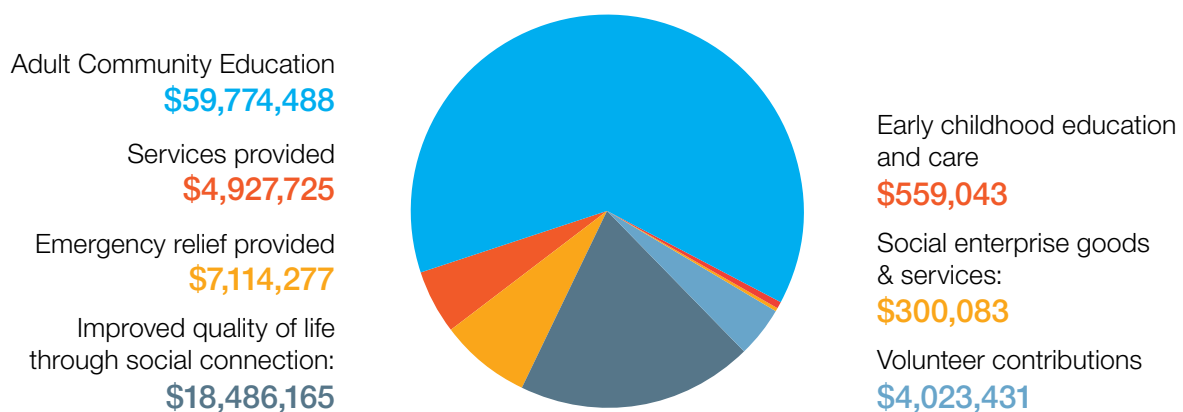


Network Value Report

Real Impact. Real Value.



This figure includes the value of:



This community value equates to:

\$3.45 for every **\$1** of income

\$29.20 for every **\$1** of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding

Over **\$1,130.61** for **every hour** the neighbourhood houses are in use

265.2 FTE jobs including **190.8 direct** and **74.4 indirect** Full Time Equivalent positions



Our Network

NENHN spans five local government areas:
Banyule, Darebin, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra





North East Neighbourhood House Network Members

BANYULE

- Diamond Valley Learning Centre
- Greenhills Neighbourhood House
- Livingstone Community Centre
- Olympic Neighbourhood House
- Rosanna Fire Station Community House
- Watsonia Neighbourhood House

DAREBIN

- Alphington Community Centre
- Gurwidj Koori Neighbourhood House
- Jika Jika Community Centre
- PRACE
- Reservoir Neighbourhood House
- Span Community House
- Bridge Darebin (Preston and Thornbury)

NILLUMBIK

- Allwood Neighbourhood House
- Living & Learning Nillumbik (Eltham, Diamond Creek and Panton Hill)
- Wadumbuk St Andrews Community Centre

WHITTLESEA

- Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre
- Greenbrook Community House
- Lalor Neighbourhood House
- Mernda Community House
- Mill Park Community House
- Thomastown Neighbourhood House
- Whittlesea Community House

YARRA

- Alphington Community Centre
- Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House
- Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Finbar Neighbourhood House
- Fitzroy Learning Network
- Holden Street Neighbourhood House
- North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House
- Richmond Community Learning Centre

Annual Financial Statement

Treasurer's Report

- The North East Neighbourhood House Network Inc completed the 2022-2023 with a healthy balance sheet.
- All provisions have been allocated and our overall financial picture is strong.
- Annual budgets were prepared for the period.
- Our profits from the previous financial year were directed to the provision of the Info Hub.
- All Statutory employee provisions continue to be accrued and allocated.
- Our payroll was slightly higher due to project work.
- Julie Johnston returned to manage the service after the end of an interim neighbourhood manager role.

My thanks go to Julie and Sally for their ongoing commitment to the Network and to Peter for the provision of quality financial statements.

We believe that this is an accurate financial summary of the transactions undertaken in the 2022-2023 period by the North East Neighbourhood House Network inc.



Lynne Harris — Treasurer

Balance Sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bendigo — Operating	46,166	51,973
Bendigo — Term Deposits	108,120	107,774
Accounts Receivable	5,280	19,514
Prepaid Expenses	502	0
Total Current Assets	160,068	179,261
FIXED ASSETS		
Motor Vehicle: At cost	12,718	12,718
Motor Vehicle: Less accumulated depreciation	(3,962)	(1,415)
Plant and Equipment: At cost	15,227	15,227
Property, Plant & Equipment: Less accumulated depreciation	(15,227)	(15,227)
Total Fixed Assets	8,756	11,303
TOTAL ASSETS	168,824	190,564
Liabilities		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade Creditors & Other Payables	15,379	12,997
Provisions — Employee Entitlements	22,368	24,130
GST Payable	3,142	5,840
Total Current Liabilities	40,889	42,967
TOTAL LIABILITIES	40,889	42,967
NET ASSETS	127,935	147,597
Equity		
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	147,597	131,877
Add Net Income for the Year	(19,662)	15,720
TOTAL EQUITY	127,935	147,597

Profit and Loss

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
TRADING INCOME		
Grants	111,524	106,619
Membership Levies Received	6,528	3,911
Consultation Fees Received	25,740	35,480
Interest Received	353	756
Sundry Income	3,109	3,400
TOTAL TRADING INCOME	147,254	150,167
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Bank Charges	297	139
Board & Governance Expenses	692	2,163
Bookkeeping	4,880	5,800
Computer Expenses	1,363	841
Depreciation Expense	2,547	1,905
Membership Fees Paid	1,259	1,210
Motor Vehicle Expenses	2,214	2,661
Payroll Expenses	142,394	108,863
Program Delivery Expenses	7,449	3,063
Rent	1,000	1,000
Sundry Expenses	214	2,795
Telephone & Internet	772	1,245
Training & Development (Staff)	1,752	807
Travel & Accommodation	83	1,003
Volunteer Costs	0	950
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	166,916	134,447
NET PROFIT	(19,662)	15,720

Cash Flow Statement

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME		
Grants Received	122,676	118,081
Interest Income	353	892
Other Income	54,686	25,957
TOTAL INCOME	177,715	144,930
EXPENDITURE		
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	186,497	171,345
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	186,497	171,345
NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS	-8,782	-26,415
NET CASH INFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases/Disposals of Fixed Assets	0	12,719
TOTAL NET CASH INFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	0	12,719
NET CASH INFLOWS	-8,782	-39,134
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS WITH CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS		
Operating Surplus/-Deficit for Year	-19,662	15,721
Add Back Depreciation	2,547	1,905
TOTAL RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS WITH CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	-17,115	17,626
MOVEMENT IN ASSETS & LIABILITIES		
Decrease/Increase In Receivables — Operations	13,733	-18,628
Decrease/Increase In Creditors & Provisions — Operations	-5,400	-25,413
TOTAL MOVEMENT IN ASSETS & LIABILITIES	8,333	-44,041
NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS	-8,782	-26,415
CASH AT BANK 30 JUNE		
Cash at Bank at Start of Year	162,511	198,881
Add Net Cash Inflows/-Outflows	-8,782	-39,134
Total Cash at Bank 30 June	153,729	159,747
MADE UP AS FOLLOWS		
Bendigo — Operating Account	46,166	51,973
Bendigo — Term Deposit	108,120	107,774
Bendigo - Credit Card	-557	0
TOTAL MADE UP AS FOLLOWS	153,729	159,747

Notes To The Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The committee have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

Basis of Preparation

The report has been prepared in accordance with the following applicable Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Interpretations:

AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements

AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements

AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

AASB 1031: Materiality

AASB 1048: Interpretation and Application Standards

AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

No other Australian Accounting Standards, International Accounting Standards Urgent Issues Group Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Board have been applied.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the presentation of the financial reports. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

(a) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluations are credited to the revaluation reserve in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the income statement. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the assets original cost is transferred from the revaluation reserve to retained earnings.

(b) Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, is depreciated on a diminishing value basis over their useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated carrying amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks or financial institutions, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short term borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

(d) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year where required by accounting standards or as a result of changes in accounting policy, or changes to the accounting period.

(e) Change in accounting policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies for the financial period.

Statement By Committee



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

In the opinion of the Members of the Committee of the Association,

1. The accompanying revenue statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the Association's income for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.
2. The accompanying balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs for the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.
3. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association can meet its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

CHAIRPERSON

Jane Tonkin

TREASURER

Lynne Harris

Dated this 26th day of July 2023



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

NENHN acknowledges
the support of the
Victorian Government



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